

Message Text

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EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, GR, TU, NATO, MORG

SUBJECT: TURKISH POSITION ON GREEK REINTEGRATION

1. DURING MEETING AUGUST 10 WITH TURKISH MFA SEC GEN ELEK-
DAG COUNSELOR NIMETZ RAISED SUBJECT OF GREEK REINTEGRATION
INTO THE NATO MILITARY STRUCTURE. HE TOLD ELEKDAG THAT THE
US BELIEVES THAT NOW IS THE APPROPRIATE TIME TO PURSUE
GREEK REINTEGRATION AND HE ASKED FOR TURKISH VIEWS.

2. ELEKDAG RESPONDED THAT TURKEY ALSO DESIRES GREEK REIN-
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TEGRATION, BUT "NOT AT TURKEY'S EXPENSE". HE SAID THE
TURKISH GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO CONSIDER ANY REASONABLE
PROPOSAL CONCERNING GREEK RE-ENTRY, BUT ELEKDAG MADE IT
CLEAR GOT WOULD NOT AGREE TO RE-ENTRY ARRANGEMENT WHICH
WOULD ASSIGN TO GREECE - EVEN ON A PROVISIONAL BASIS-
COMMAND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE AEGEAN SIMILAR TO THOSE IT
HAD PRIOR TO 1974. ELEKDAG SAID THAT TURKEY WANTS A

MILITARILY JUSTIFIABLE RESOLUTION OF THE SITUATION AND DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN GENERAL HAIG AND GENERAL DAVOS MEETS THOSE CRITERIA. HE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT TURKEY IS NOT SETTING PRECONDITIONS FOR GREEK RE-ENTRY BUT WANTS TO NEGOTIATE RE-ENTRY WITHIN THE NATO MILITARY FRAMEWORK WITH A MINIMUM OF PUBLICITY. HE SAID IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE TO BE MORE RESTRAINED IN ITS PUBLIC COMMENTS IF SATISFAC-

TORY ARRANGEMENTS WERE TO BE WORKED OUT.

3. NIMETZ REITERATED US INTERESTS IN ARRANGING FOR GREEK RE-ENTRY INTO THE MILITARY STRUCTURE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE POINTED OUT IT IS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE TO FIND IDEAL SOLUTIONS AND HE HAD HOPED THAT THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WOULD INTRODUCE SOME FLEXIBILITY IN TURKEY'S POSITION. HE SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT REGARDLESS OF REASONS FOR TURKISH HESITATION IT MIGHT APPEAR THAT TURKEY IS SIMPLY TRYING TO OBSTRUCT GREEK RE-ENTRY; THIS WOULD RESULT IN POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN THE UNITED STATES AND PERHAPS INTRODUCE NEW DIFFICULTIES INTO US-TURKISH RELATIONS. NIMETZ REEMPHASIZED THE HIGH IMPORTANCE, BOTH POLITICAL AND MILITARY, WE ATTACH TO GREEK RE-ENTRY.

4. ELEKDAG RESPONDED WITH SOME EMOTION THAT IT WAS UNJUST TO SUGGEST THAT TURKEY IS TRYING TO OBSTRUCT GREEK RE-ENTRY.
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HE AGAIN SAID THAT TURKEY WANTS GREECE BACK IN THE MILITARY STRUCTURE OF NATO, BUT HE ASKED RHETORICALLY WHY TURKEY MUST ALWAYS BE THE PARTY WHICH IS ASKED TO BE "PRACTICAL". HE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR NEW GREEK NATIONAL COMMANDS TO MAINTAIN THE SAME AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY THAT PREVIOUS INTERNATIONAL COMMANDS HAD HELD AND HE SUGGESTED AGAIN THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO PROCEED THROUGH QUIET NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN NATO. HE REPEATED THAT TURKEY IS INTERESTED IN A SOLUTION AND INTERPOSES NO PRECONDITIONS BUT SAID GREECE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT IT CAN NOT MANIPULATE THE OTHER ALLIES TO FORCE A PRO-GREEK SOLUTION ON TURKEY.
CHRISTOPHER

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